

NOTES

ALECTRA ASPERA (CHAM. & SCHLECHT.)

L. O. WILLIAMS

While writing the account of the genus *Alectra* Thunberg for the forthcoming Flora Mesoamericana, covering the area from Chiapas to Panama (Gentry, 1981), we encountered a problem concerning the correct name for the Central American species.

Pedicularis melampyroides L. C. Rich. (1792) is the first published name for the species. The species was transferred into the genus *Alectra* by Kuntze (1891). Melchior (1941), in his revision of the genus *Alectra*, accepted *A. melampyroides* (L. C. Rich.) O. Kuntze as the valid name. However, this is a later homonym of *Alectra melampyroides* Benth. (1846), which is a synonym of *Alectra sessiliflora* (Vahl) O. Kuntze (1891). The name *A. melampyroides* (L. C. Rich.) O. Kuntze is therefore illegitimate and cannot be used. Benth. (1846) used the name *Alectra brasiliensis* for the Central American species.

Another name, *Scrophularia fluminensis*, was published for the species by Vellozo (1831) in "Florae Fluminensis." Carauta (1973) stated that the effective date of publication of "Florae Fluminensis" was 1829 for the text volume, not 1825 as indicated on the title page. The "Florae Fluminensis Icones" vol. 6, containing the illustration of *S. fluminensis* Vellozo, was not published until 1831, although the title page is dated 1827. Stearn (1971) transferred the species into *Alectra* with the combination *A. fluminensis* (Vellozo) Stearn.

A further name, *Glossostylis aspera* Cham. & Schlecht. (1828), was published for the same species and transferred to the genus *Alectra* by Williams (1972).

The title page of Vellozo's "Florae Fluminensis" would indicate that *Scrophularia fluminensis* was the earliest valid specific epithet. However delay in distribution of this work means that the earliest epithet is from *Glossostylis aspera*

and the correct name for the species is *Alectra aspera* (Cham. & Schlecht.) L. O. Williams. The synonyms of this taxon are listed below.

Alectra aspera (Cham. & Schlecht.) L. O. Williams, Fieldiana, Bot. 34: 118. 1972. *Glossostylis aspera* Cham. & Schlecht., Linnaea 3: 23. 1828. TYPE: Brazil. Provincia Rio Janeiro in fossis prope St. Annam, xii, Beyrich s.n. (HAL?, not seen).

Alectra brasiliensis Benth. in DC., Prodr. 10: 339. 1846. *Melasma brasiliense* (Benth.) Chodat & Hassler, Bull. Herb. Boissier 4: 291. 1904.

Alectra fluminensis (Vellozo) Stearn, J. Arnold Arbor. 52: 635. 1971. *Scrophularia fluminensis* Vellozo, Florae Fluminensis 263. 1829.

Alectra melampyroides (L. C. Rich.) O. Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 458. 1891, non Benth. 1846. *Pedicularis melampyroides* L. C. Rich., Actes Soc. Hist. Nat. Paris 1(1): 111. 1792. *Nigrina melampyroides* (L. C. Rich.) O. Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 3(2): 237. 1898. *Melasma melampyroides* (L. C. Rich.) Pennell ex Britton & Wilson in Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Islands 6(2): 188. 1925.

We would like to thank Dr. C. E. Jarvis for comments on the manuscript.

LITERATURE CITED

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